

Model Underage Drinking Enforcement Policy Summit

Becca Matusovich, OSA

Seth Blodgett, AG's office

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Is effective enforcement worth the effort?

The data says it is:

- MYDAUS correlations
- HEAPP evaluation
- Piscataquis County evaluation

But first, a few assumptions on which this approach is based...

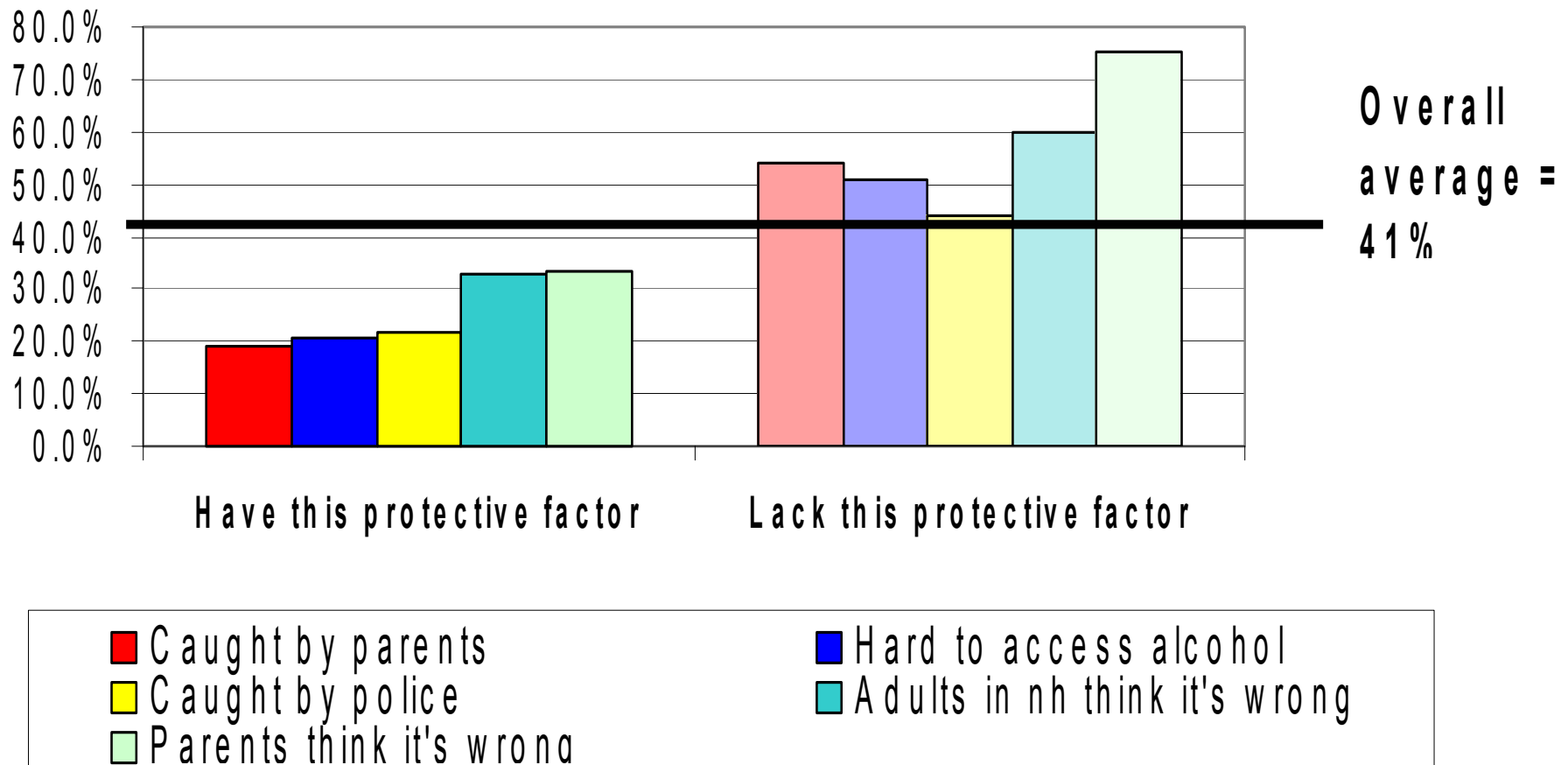
Enforcement is a powerful prevention tool when it:

- Reduces underage access
- Clearly communicates a community's standards for acceptable behavior
- Focuses on preventing high-risk behavior and intervening in developing patterns
- Increases individuals' understanding of their own risk and others' concern
- Engages parents as critical partners and empowers them to address the problem

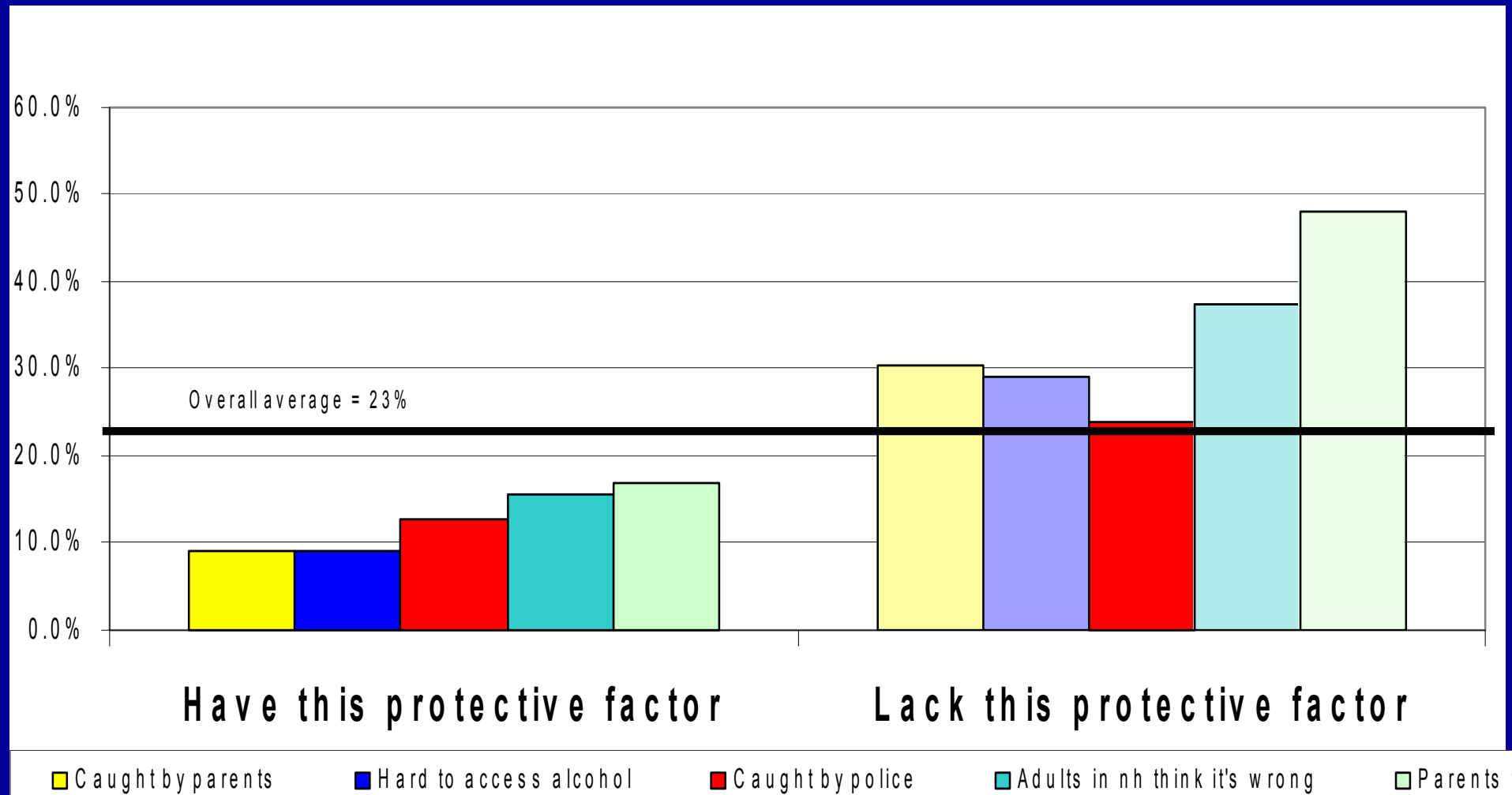
Strengthening enforcement as a prevention tool

- Think proactively – what will be most likely to prevent this situation from reoccurring?
- Maximize the deterrent effect by ensuring as much consistency as possible
- Publicize enforcement efforts and clearly state the reasons why they are important
- Stay focused on the goal: reducing high-risk drinking and related problems
- Clarify – is this a “zero tolerance” approach?

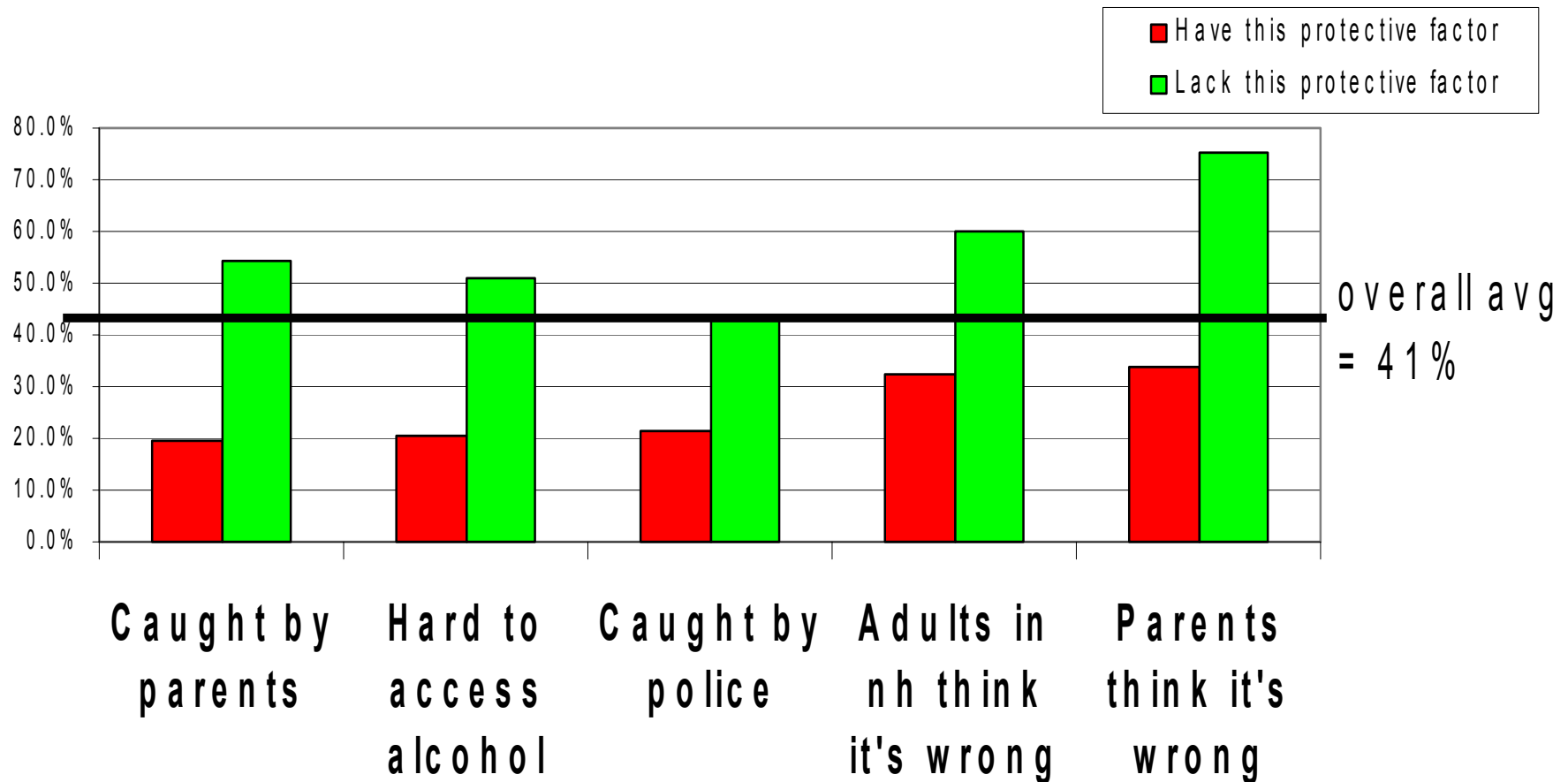
MYDAUS 2004 : statewide data for gr. 9-12 30-day alcohol use



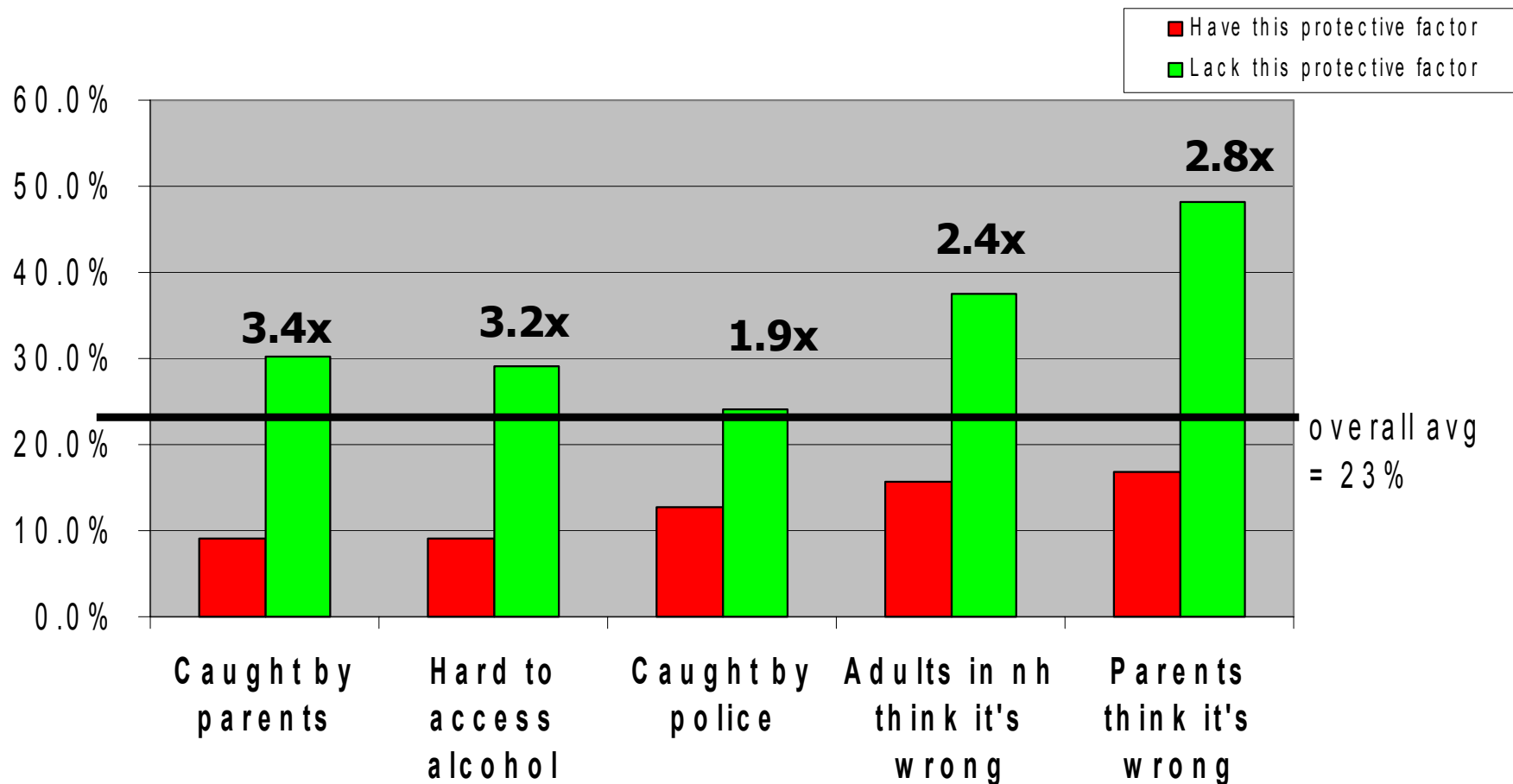
MYDAUS 2004 : statewide data for gr. 9-12 2-week binge drinking



MYDAUS 2004 : statewide data for gr. 9-12 30-day alcohol use



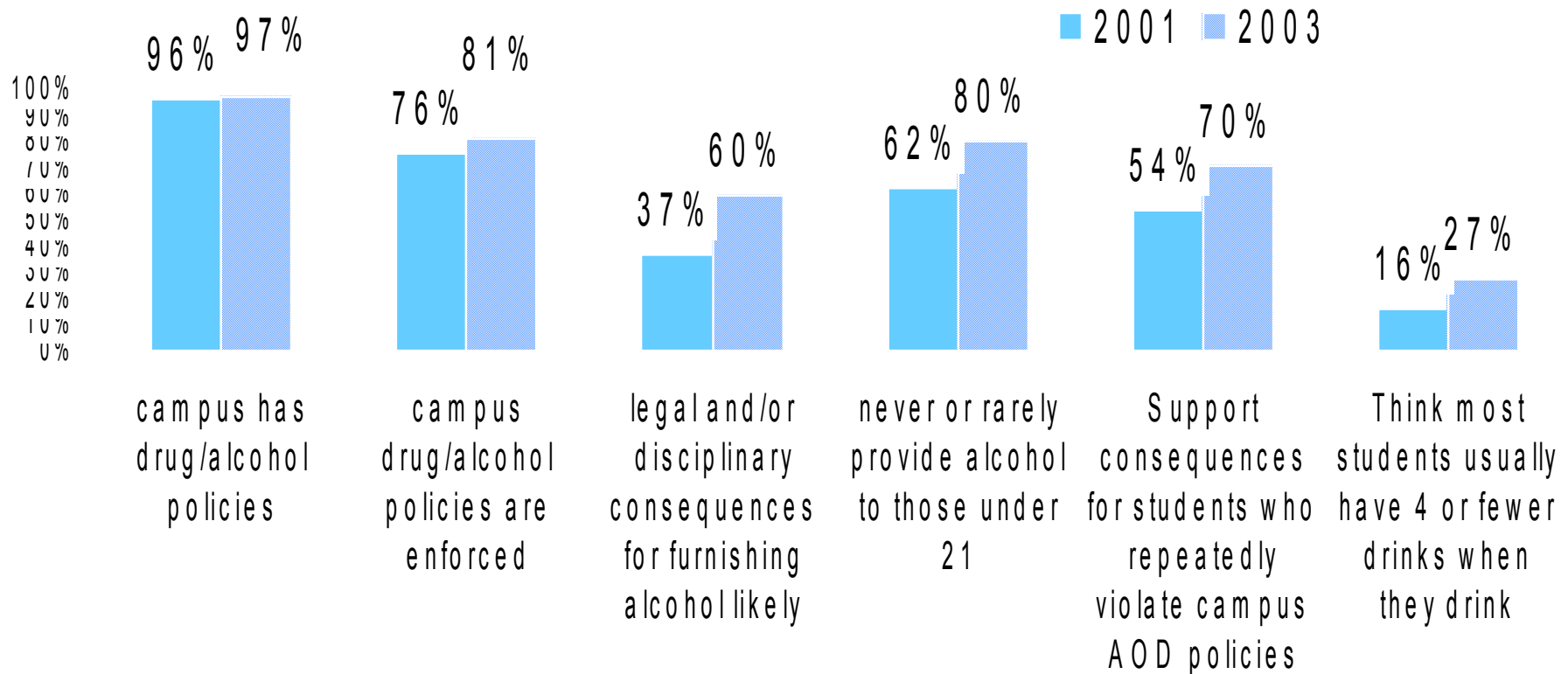
MYDAUS 2004 : statewide data for gr. 9-12 2-week binge drinking



HEAPP college evaluation results

Environmental/Attitude/Perception indicators

Core survey results: 4 campuses, sophomores (N=228 and 244),
excludes those age 25+

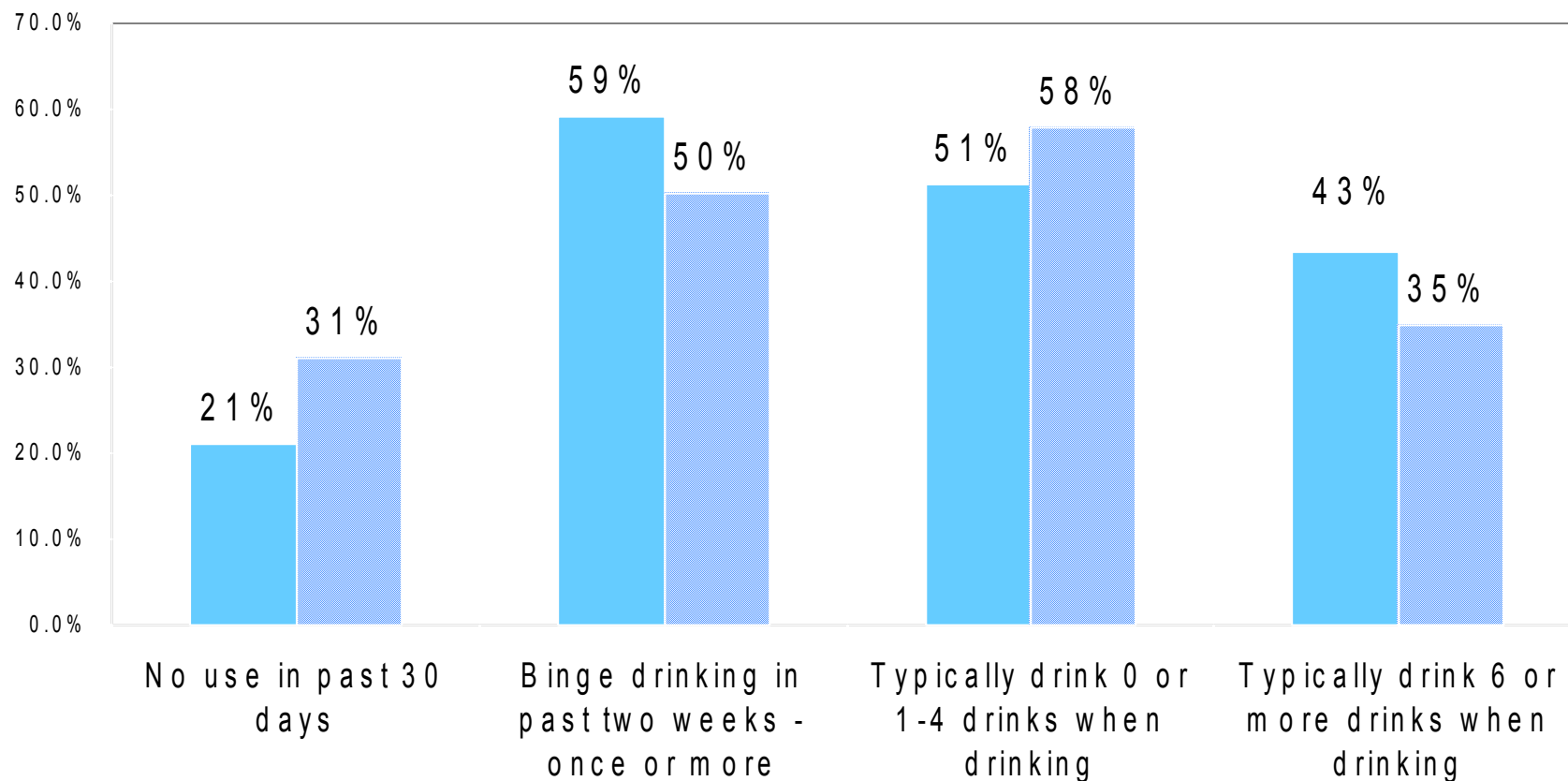


HEAPP college evaluation results

Drinking patterns

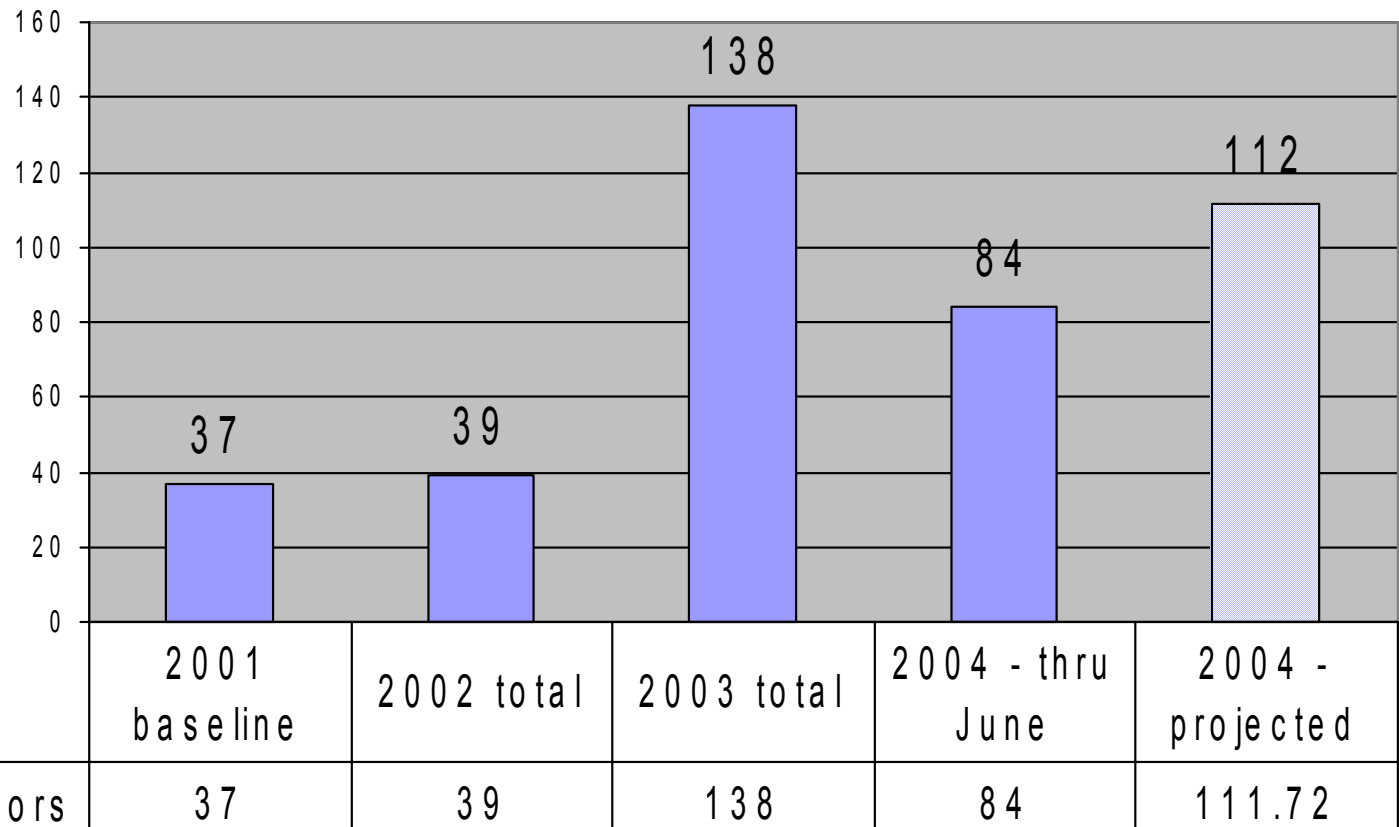
Core survey results: 4 campuses, sophomores (N=228 and 244), excludes those age 25+

2001 2003



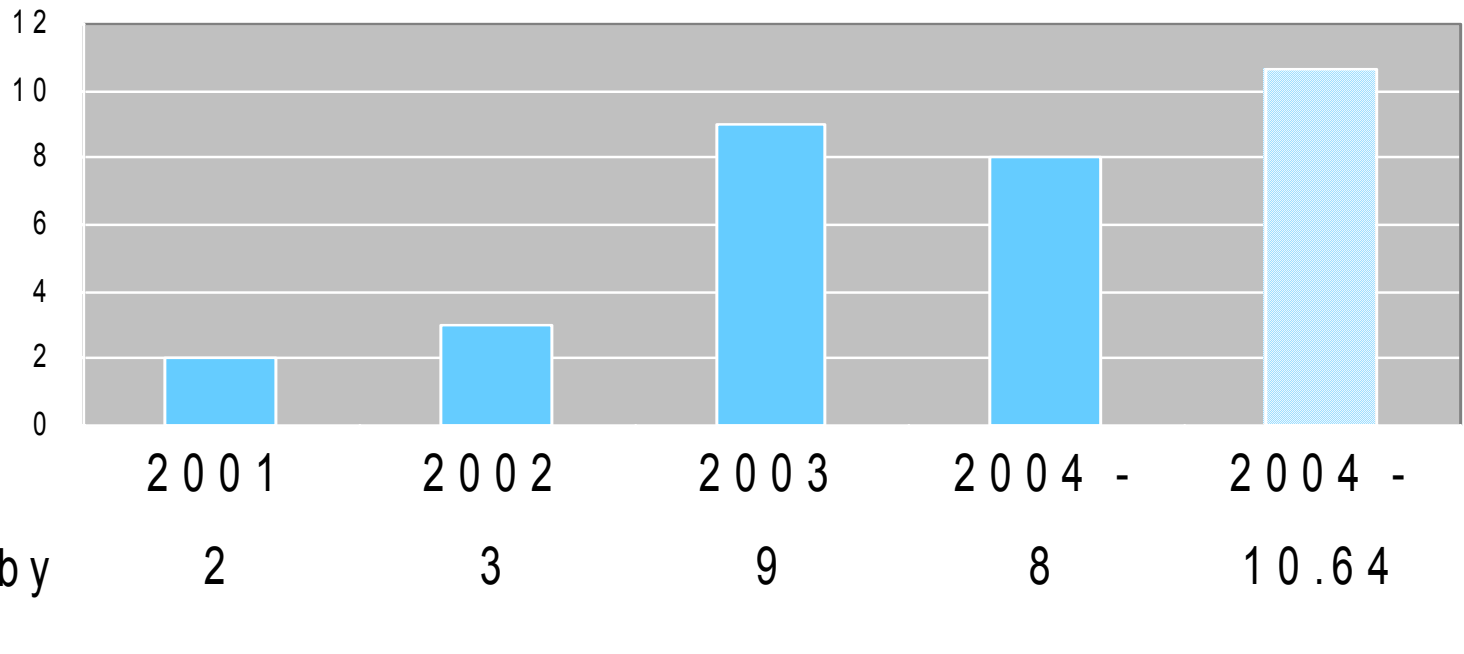
Rural Enforcement Grant: Data from Piscataquis County

Piscataquis County Sheriff's Office: Violations by Minors



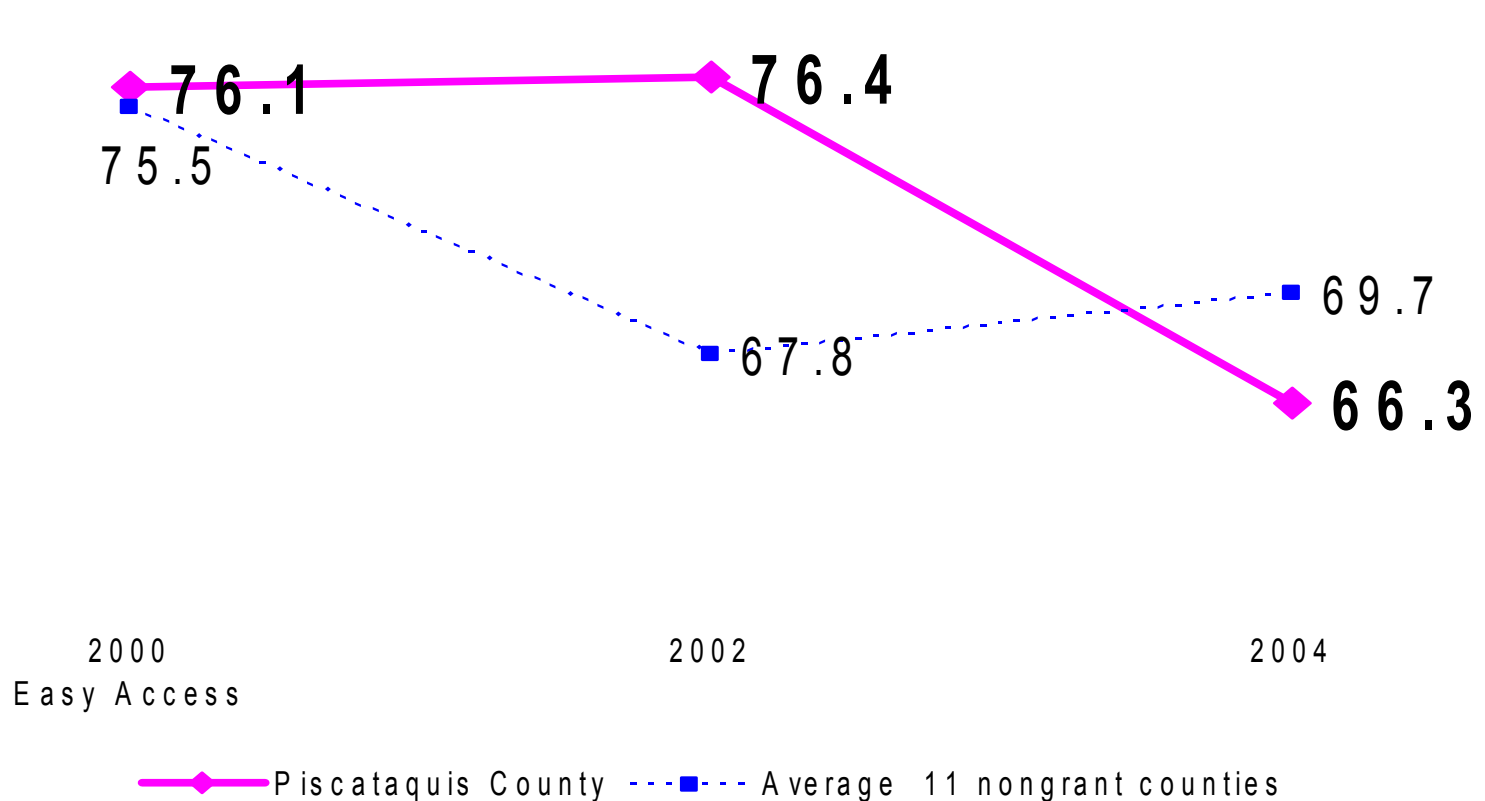
Rural Enforcement Grant: Data from Piscataquis County

Piscataquis County Sheriff's Office:
Violations by Adults



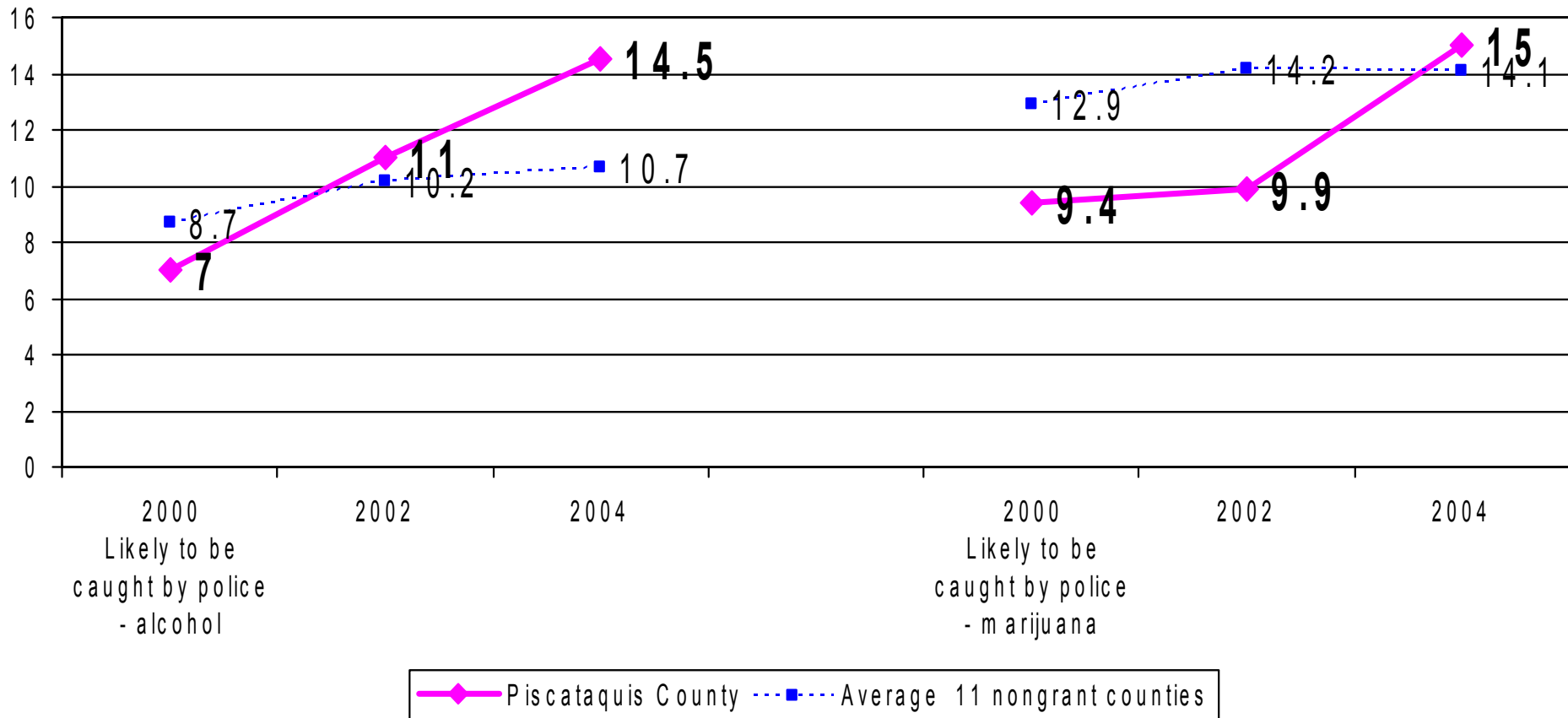
Rural Enforcement Grant: Data from Piscataquis County

Perceived access to alcohol
(source: weighted MYDAUS data, grades 9-12)



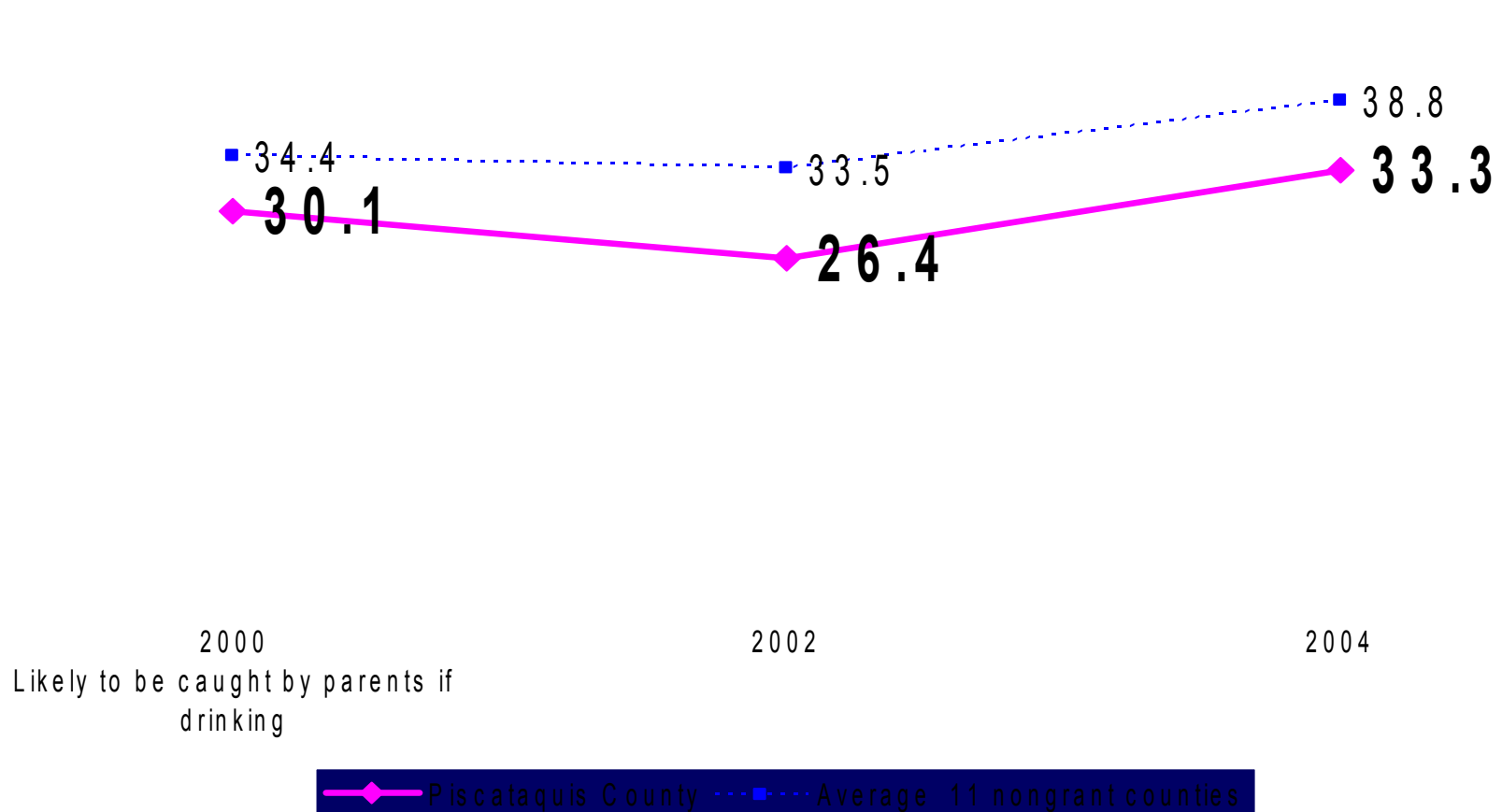
Rural Enforcement Grant: Data from Piscataquis County

Likelihood of being caught by police
(source: weighted MYDAUS data, grades 9-12)



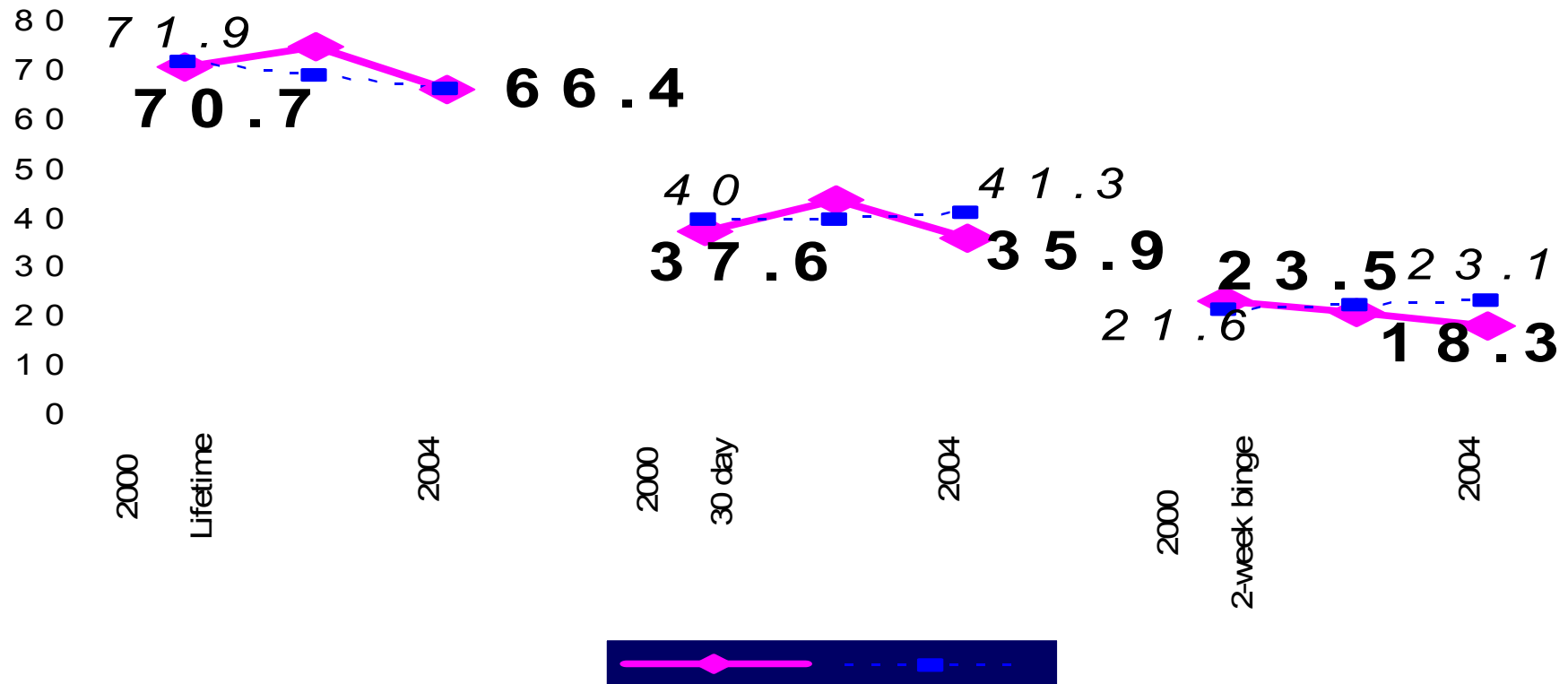
Rural Enforcement Grant: Data from Piscataquis County

Parenting attitudes/practices
(source: weighted MYDAUS data, grades 9-12)



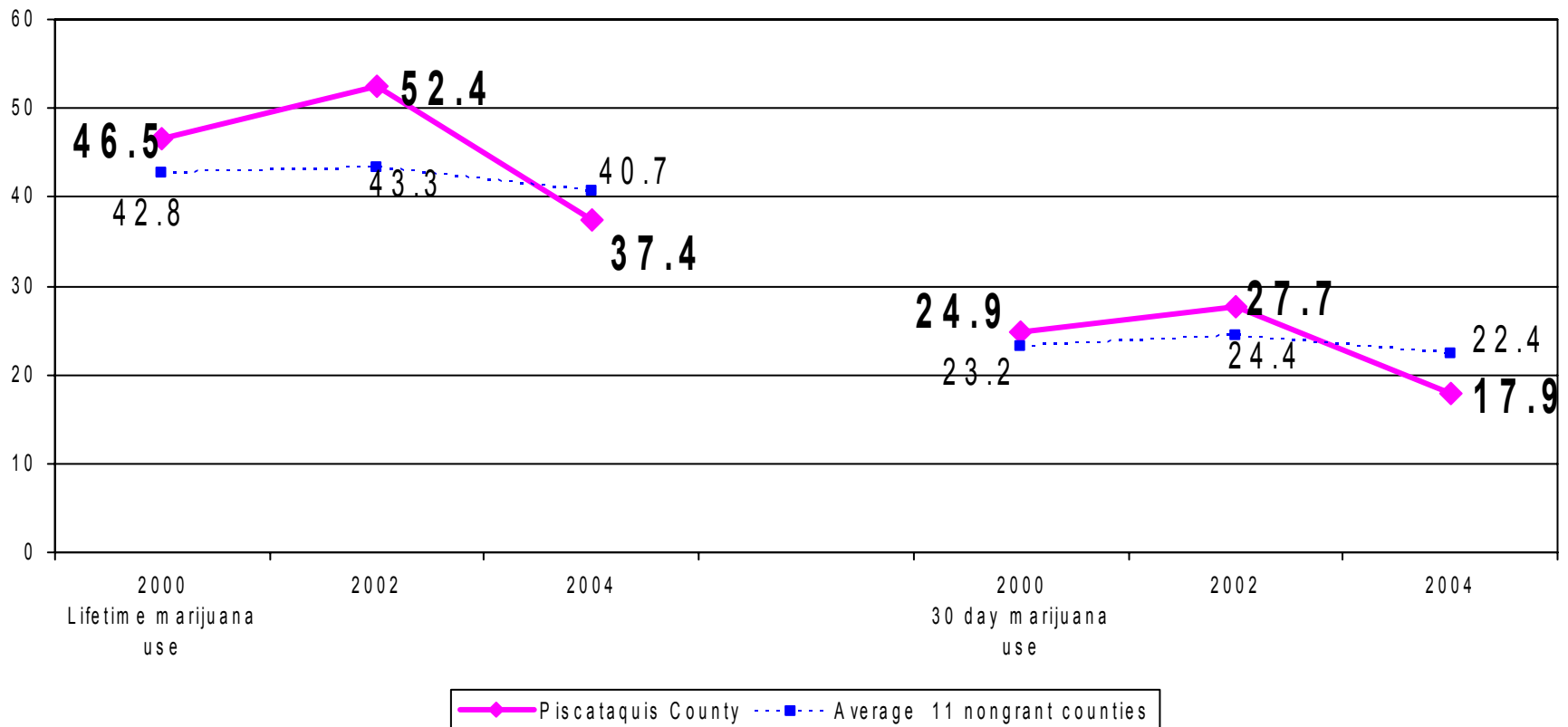
Rural Enforcement Grant: Data from Piscataquis County

Alcohol use patterns
(source: weighted MYDAUS data,
grades 9-12)



Rural Enforcement Grant: Data from Piscataquis County

Marijuana use patterns
(source: weighted MYDAUS data, grades 9-12)



Key points in the model policy

Section I: Policy

- Provides justification for the importance of underage drinking enforcement
- States commitment to consistent, proactive, and vigorous enforcement

Key points in the model policy

Section I: Policy, cont.

■ Pledges:

- coordination with other l.e. departments
- education/training for officers
- effort to coordinate protocols with others in l.e. continuum
- opportunities for community dialogue on underage drinking
- partnership with schools, colleges, community organizations, businesses on strategies to reduce underage drinking, including intervention and educational programs for violators
- annual review of policy and its implementation

Key points in the model policy

Section II: Purpose

To establish guidelines for the officers of this agency on enforcement of Maine's underage drinking laws and laws related to underage access to alcohol. Additionally, this policy will also provide officers with guidelines in the investigation of "underage drinking parties."

Key points in the model policy

Section III: Procedure

A. Training

1. The dept shall conduct yearly training which has been approved by the MCJA
2. The dept shall invite participation in the training by the District Attorney or designee, as well as Juvenile Community Corrections Officers

Key points in the model policy

Section III: Procedure, cont.

B. Possession of Alcohol by a Minor

Steps to be taken:

1. Seize the alcohol as evidence
2. Identify the minor through valid form of ID
3. If intoxicated, ensure that the minor is not in need of immediate medical assistance
4. Determine if affirmative defenses apply (employment, parent present in private home)
5. Determine where alcohol was consumed

Key points in the model policy

Section III: Procedure, cont.

Possession – steps, cont.

6. Establish whose alcohol it is and where obtained
7. If juvenile, (make diligent effort to) contact parents/legal guardian as soon as practical
8. Conduct full and thorough investigation to determine the source of the alcohol, including conducting interviews of witnesses
9. If probable cause exists and officer utilizes discretion not to charge, provide a detailed written report explaining the no-charge decision and resolution of the case

Key points in the model policy

Section III: Procedure, cont.

C. Illegal transportation

Same steps as possession except:

3. establish minor's knowledge of the presence of the alcohol

Key points in the model policy

Section III: Procedure, cont.

D. Investigation of underage drinking parties

If informed in advance, investigating officer should obtain:

1. Source of informant's information
2. Time & location of planned party
3. Person(s) responsible for the party
4. Person(s) responsible for the property

Key points in the model policy

Section III: Procedure, cont.

Advance Parties - steps, cont.

Investigating officer shall notify supervisor,
who shall make a strong effort to ensure:

1. That an officer is assigned to conduct a thorough investigation
2. The property owner is notified and is made aware of laws
3. that an effort is made to locate and seize alcohol intended for the party
4. A law enforcement presence at the time and general location of the party

Key points in the model policy

Section III: Procedure, cont.

Underage Drinking Party in Progress

- Responding officers shall make every effort to ensure the welfare and safety of the offending minors
- A supervisor or designee will be notified and will respond to evaluate what manpower may be needed to safely disperse the party.

Key points in the model policy

Section III: Procedure, cont.

Parties in progress – steps, cont.

Responding officers shall:

1. Establish party's sponsor
2. Identify property owner
3. If juvenile, make diligent effort to contact parents
4. Follow guidelines for possession
5. Vigorously investigate to determine where minors obtained the alcohol and whether probable cause exists for furnishing and/or allowing consumption by a minor

Key points in the model policy

Section III: Procedure, cont.

Parties in progress – steps, cont.

6. Once probable cause established, arrest or summons the appropriate adults or minors for either furnishing alcohol or furnishing a place
7. If investigation provides probable cause that a minor purchased alcohol from a licensed establishment, a referral shall be made to the Maine Bureau of Liquor Licensing

Questions? Comments?

- How closely does this policy describe how your department already “does” underage drinking enforcement?
- How closely does this policy align with how the leadership in your department and community wants to do underage drinking enforcement?